

Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 EUR-12

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R 161530Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1003
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG ELAB
SUBJECT: NEGATIVE COMMENTS BY EGYPTIAN LABOR OFFICIAL ON
MARCH 14 SADAT SPEECH

1. FIRST AUTHORITATIVE NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON MARCH 14 SPEECH BY
PRESIDENT SADAT COME FROM EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR OFFICIAL.
ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF EFL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT,
ISSUE OF ABROGATION OF 1971 SOVIET-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY
OF MARGINAL CONCERN TO EGYPTIAN WORKERS. ACCORDING TO EFL,
WORKERS WERE HOPING FOR CONCESSIONS ONBREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES
DURING SADAT'S SPEECH AND NO SUCH CONCESSIONS OCCURRED. BY TIME
SADAT DROPPED ABROGATION BOMBSHELL AT END OF SPEECH, MANY LABOR
REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALREADY DISILLUSIONED BY LACK OF GOE
COMMITMENT TO SUCH ITEMS AS PRICE STABILIZATION AND ORDERLY
SYSTEM OF FUTURE WAGE INCREASES. EFL OFFICIAL OPINED THAT DURING
EFL ELECTIONS, DUE TO START SHORTLY, AS TRADE UNION BILL
DUE TO BE PASSED IN SOME FORM MARCH 16, PRESSURE WILL
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INCREASINGLY BE BROUGHT ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNING

SPECIFIC ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS TO WORKERS.

2. EFL OFFICIAL STATED THAT, IN OPINION OF EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION OFFICIALS, SOVIETS ARE UNLIKELY TO TAKE MAJOR ECONOMIC REPRISALS AGAINST EGYPT, AS INDUSTRIAL INVOLVEMENT IN EGYPTIAN ECONOMY ONLY LEVER REMAINING TO SOVIETS AND MASSIVE SOVIET PULL OUT WOULD END ALL CHANCES FOR SOVIET RE-ENTRY INTO EGYPTIAN ECONOMY SHOULD SADAT ULTIMATELY BE REPLACED, AS WESTERN NATIONS AND ARAB CAPITAL WOULD ULTIMATELY FILL SOVIET BREACH.

3. COMMENT: COMMENTS BY EFL OFFICIAL FIRST STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION WE HAVE HEARD TO SADAT MARCH 14 SPEECH. EFL OFFICIAL QUITE MODERATE AND PRO-WESTERN BUT HE OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG TRADE UNION OFFICIALS THAT WORKING-CLASS EGYPTIANS NOW FACE FIVE YEARS OF ADDED AUSTERITY: " WE ARE BEING ASKED TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME OUR BELTS ARE UP AROUND OUR NECKS." EILTS

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